A BRIEF

ACCOUNT

OF THE

REASONS

For which the

Three Eſtates of *Scotland*

Forfaulted the Late KING *JAMES*,

AND SETLED

K. WILLIAM and Q. MARY

Upon the THRONE, *Anno* 1689.

And ſome of the Reaſons induced them to Aboliſh EPISCOPACY *there.*

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A Brief ACCOUNT OF THE REASONS

For which the Three Eſtates of Scotland *Forfaulted the* Late King James, *and ſetled King* WILLIAM *and Queen* MARY *upon the Throne*, Anno 1689.

THE Prince of *Orange* (now our Gracious King) having called the Three Eſtates of *Scotland* together by his circular Letters, firſt of all they choſe the Duke of *Hamilton* (who deſerved Lawrels for his indefatigable Labour in that great Work) their Præſes, then declared themſelves (unanimouſly) a Free Eſtate, and ſecured their frequent Meetings. After adjuſting other Matters for the common Safety, it was moved by the Earl of *Leven*, and ſeconded by many, That for ſeveral Reaſons the Throne ſhould be declared Vacant; and that the Vacancy ſhould be filled up. Some were for Delays, but the Duke of *Hamilton*, and many others urged, That there was a neceſſity to ſettle that matter as ſoon as was poſſible: And after much reaſoning at ſeveral Meetings, an Act was drawn up concerning the ſame, and Copies given by the Clerks to every Member who deſired them.

Upon the 11*th* of *April* the Convention met at Nine a Clock in the Forenoon; and the Reaſons in the aforeſaid Act, declaring the Throne Vacant, with the Eſtates Concluſion, were all read Paragraph

ragraph by Paragraph, to ſee if any Member had further to ſay againſt the ſame. There were ſeveral Arguments *Pro* and *Con*; but the moſt material were theſe betwixt *Paterſon* the then Archbiſhop of *Glaſcow*, and Sir *John Dalrymple* (now Maſter of *Stair*, and Secretary of State.) The Biſhop ſaid, That in relation to the great Buſineſs then in Hand, there were Three things chiefly to be conſidered. 1. Whether the Miniſters of State, their Faults or Crimes could be imputed to the King, ſo as he ſhould loſe his Right to the Crown, which was his Inheritance by a Lineal Succeſſion (in this Nation) for many Ages: And his own Opinion was, That the Faults, *&c.* of the Miniſters of State could not be imputed to the King, ſo as to Dethrone him, *&c.* 2. He judged it more proper for Redreſs of their Grievances, to ſend Commiſſioners to the King, that he might come home to keep a Free Parliament; and then not only give ſecurity for their Religion, but alſo give the ſtanding Laws their full, free, and vigorous Execution, rather than to defend themſelves with Foreign Powers, thereby to Dethrone their native King, and his Lawful Succeſſors, and to advance another to the Throne, whilſt there were any of them living. 3. It was a Queſtion whether this Meeting had an Authoritative and coercive Power to declare the Throne Vacant, and to diſpoſe thereof.

Sir *John Dalrymple* anſwered to the firſt, That he wondered how any Member of that Houſe could pretend to be ſo ignorant of the Reaſons mentioned in the Act for declaring the Throne Vacant, or ſo obſtinate as to deny the Truth of them: And being true Matters of Fact, it was viſible that it was not for the private Acts of Miniſters of State that King *James* was to be Dethroned, but his own Actions done during the whole Courſe of his Reign; by unhinging the Laws, by a Deſpotick Power, and Arbitrary Government, giving Commiſſions contrary to Law, diſpenſing with the Law in favour of Papiſts, Erecting Popiſh Chappels, Schools, and Colledges contrary to Law: And whether theſe (and many other things) were done by Inſinuations of Evil Miniſters which he put in Offices, and defended thoſe Miniſters ſo put in Offices againſt the ſtanding Laws (others knew beſt) but being they

they were his own Acts and Deeds, muſt land at King *James's* Door.

As to the ſecond, the Remedy propoſed by that worthy Prelate (in Recalling King *James*) would prove worſe than the Diſeaſe: For beſides the Reaſons contained in the Act (which are ſufficient of themſelves) let us but conſider, that in the midſt of our late Fears and Confuſions, he Deſerted us, went to *France* privately to our Enemy, and the Enemy of Mankind; where he actually raiſed Forces, procured them Arms and Money to go for *Ireland*, with a Crew of *French* to aſſiſt the *wild Iriſh* Papiſts. And as the Proteſtants there met with hard meaſure, if he and that Party prevailed there, what might we expect but Popery and Slavery? And is there any true Proteſtant (pretend what he pleaſes) can dream of Security either to our Religion, Laws, Liberties, or Properties, if he and his Army of cruel *French* and *wild Iriſh* came hither. So that we muſt ſecure our ſelves, and all that's dear to us (by keeping him and his Party out) and ſetling on the Throne Perſons, who (with God's Aſſiſtance) can and will ſecure all of them to us: Nor is it doubted but the Honourable Eſtates will fill the Vacancy with thoſe of the Royal Line.

And as to that point the Biſhop cries out of againſt, *viz.* the Eſtates advancing another to the Throne whilſt King *James* and others (whom he called his Lawful Succeſſors) were alive, anſwered, That there were none here but knew that there have been many Precedents of this nature in *Scotland*, where the Eſtates thereof have Dethroned their Kings and Queens for Faults and Crimes, and advanced others to the Throne whilſt they were alive, but ſtill of the ſame Line: And it is not doubted but our Kings lawful Succeſſors will ſucceed in the Throne. And as to that point of putting K. *James's* ſtanding Laws in execution after his Return, anſwered, That it was hop'd the Honourable Meeting, before they ſeperated, would be ſo wiſe as to Repeal ſeveral of theſe, which the Biſhop called ſtanding Laws, which were Acts made againſt the firſt Conſtitution and Fundamental Laws, Freedom and Liberty of the Nation, and were both intollerable and grievous there-

thereto, to the utter Ruin of many Proteſtant Perſons and Families.

It was anſwered to the Third, That it was out of Seaſon for the Biſhop, or any other Member of this Houſe now to talk of want of Power, after they, (as well as the Biſhop himſelf) had unanimouſly declared themſelves a Free Eſtate; And he hoped the Honourable Houſe would take notice of that *Allegation*. As alſo, That it was very well known, that our firſt Conſtitution of Monarchy here was Elective, by the Peoples Choice; but was to continue of Inheritance to the Royal Line from Father to Son, *&c.* upon Conditions, and therefore a limited Monarchy; So that our Kings were to maintain and defend the Subjects by Law; for which the Subjects were to pay Homage and Supplies to them, to ſupport them in the exerciſe of the Government; and if this did not hold, a Government would ſoon deſtroy it ſelf. Yea, the truth of this will clearly appear to any who are (in the leaſt) verſant in our Conſtitution, Rights, Laws, or Hiſtories. And will any Man doubt but this Honourable Meeting hath theſe Powers uſual and requiſite conſolidate in them by the Peoples Election? Were it not ſo, none in *Scotland* could have a Right or Title to any thing he has in the Kingdom. Now, in our preſent Circumſtances, we are obliged by the Laws of Nature, poſitive Laws of God, Nations, and our Municipal Laws, to ſecure our ſelves, our Religion, Laws, Liberties, and Properties; and eſpecially, ſeeing God by his good Providence (*even to a Miracle it ſelf*) hath put this Opportunity in our Hands. We have Power to eſtabliſh ſuch a King and Queen upon the Throne, who, we hope, will be a *Nurſing Father and Mother* to their Subjects, and not to return back again to *Egyptian Bondage*, to enſlave our ſelves to theſe unreaſonable *Tax-Maſters*. But if there be any here, who for love of the *Fleſh-Pots*, or other things beſt pleaſes their Palates, would do otherwiſe (take their Courſe:) But we are not to make their Deſigns or Fancies our Rule or Method to follow in a matter of ſo great Concern.

After

After this Debate, the Earl of *Crawford* moved that there might be no more Debates, but that the Act ſhould be put to the Vote; by which Mens Inclinations would be fully known. The Duke of *Hamilton* Præſes called for the Act to be Read, and to be put to the Vote: And being read Twice again, and put to the Vote, There were but Twenty *No's*, of which number the ſeven Biſhops preſent, and the young Laird of *Craichlaw* (who was Forfaulted for being at *Bothwell Bridge*, *Anno* 1679. and pardoned by King *James*) were eight.

COPY of the ACT.

THE Eſtates of the Kingdom of Scotland Find and Declare, That King James the Seventh, being a profeſſed Papiſt, did Aſſume the Regal Power, and Acted as King, without taking the Oaths required by Law; and by the Advice of wicked and evil Counſel, invaded the Fundamental Conſtitutions of the Kingdom, and altered them from a Legal limited Monarchy, to an Arbitrary and Deſpotick Power, and hath exerciſed the ſame, to the ſubverſion of the Proteſtant Religion, Laws, and Liberties of the Nation, by inverting all the Ends of Government; whereby he hath Forfaulted the Right of the Crown, and the Throne is become Vacant.

The Three Eſtates Voted and Declared King *William* and Queen *Mary*, of *England*, &c, King and Queen of *Scotland*, *nemine contradicente*, were proclaimed the ſame Afternoon with great Solemnity and Acclamations.

But all the Biſhops having refuſed to pray before the Parliament for King *William* and Queen *Mary*, after ſeveral Admonitions, they withdrew all but one or two: And the Biſhop of *Dumblain* (one of the beſt of them) after all Buſineſs was over, being deſired by the Preſident to ſay Prayers, the aforeſaid Biſhop (that he might not give Offence) repeated

peated the *Lord's Prayer* only, and no more: Upon which he said, That People used to repeat the *Lord's Prayer* last of all after other *ex tempore*, or Common-Prayer: So he judged that would be the Bishop's last Prayers there; and so it was: For the Estates, for many Reasons, Voted them out of Doors, as a Grievance, and unnecessary Trouble and Charge to the Nation. And I am very well satisfied, that these Bishops own personal Cruelty to the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland* (who were forced to fly to *England*, *Ireland*, and *Holland* for their Safety) and their Behaviour in the Convention, were the Motives induced the Honourable Estates to abolish that Estate so sudden as they did. And had these Bishops lived peaceably after their Abolition, the States had provided for them during their Lives. And thereafter the Estates appointed the Earl of *Argile*, the Master of *Stair*, and Sir *James Montgomery* of *Skelmorlay* their Commissioners to tender the Crown to King *William* and Queen *Mary*, with the Instrument of Government; which Their Majesties Signed, and took the usual Oath accordingly. By which Proceedings it is very clear, the King and late Queen did not intrude themselves upon the *Scots* Throne, but were the Choice of the People.

Fœlix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

FINIS.

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There is lately Published, An Impartial Account of the Transactions in *Scotland* (concerning the Earl of *Broadalban*, Viscount and Master of *Stair*, *Glenco-Men*, Bishop of *Galloway*, and *Mr. Duncan Robertson*. In a Letter from a Friend.

To be Sold by the Booksellers of London *and* Westminster.